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THE LIFE-CYCLE IN HYPOTRICHOUS INFUSORIA.

Baitsell (J. Exp. Zool. Feb. 1914) has undertaken to determine whether culture conditions could be found for *Oxytricha* and *Pleurotricha* that would eliminate the so-called life-cycle, which assumes the necessity of conjugation to prevent senescence and death as the result of continued division. He concludes that the dying out of some cultures was due, not to a condition of inherent senescence but to the fact that the culture conditions were not entirely favorable. He found that "sister cells" of *Oxytricha* lived twice as long in mass cultures without conjugation as when bred in daily isolation cultures. In *Pleurotricha* he has found culture conditions in which the organism will apparently live indefinitely without conjugation or artificial stimulation,—as Woodruff has earlier found for *Paramecium*.

In the same journal Woodruff has a note showing that his race of *Paramecium* which had gone for 4102 generations without tendency to conjugate presented numerous conjugating pairs. This disposes of the idea that *non-conjugating* races of *Paramecium* have been isolated.

PEARL FORMATION.

Fr. Alverdes (Zeits. Wiss. Zool. CV., 1913, p. 598) discusses the formation and structure of pearls in several pearl-bearing mollusks. The pearl forming layer is ectodermal, but the origin of the sac is uncertain. By inserting ectoderm cells in the mantle tissues sacs similar to the usual pearl-sacs were formed, and in these the pearly layers were deposited. The author found that pearls may or may not have a central foreign body or nucleus. The pearl may be laid down around a parasite, an ovum, or a fragment of inorganic matter. These foreign bodies may produce a kind of pseudo-sac in which the pearl may be laid down in concentric layers.

REGENERATION OF NERVES.

Clark (Jour. Comp. Neur. Feb. 1914) attacks in a new way the questions clustering about degenerating and regenerating nerves.